

**MSFS - MISSIONARIES OF ST.FRANCIS DE SALES  
SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE**



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**SWIP Circular BK/33**

**August 27, 2018**

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**My dear Confreres,**

Fraternal greetings to you from Fr Benny. I come to you with heartfelt solidarity and love in one of the most suffocating situations in the history of Kerala and Karnataka – the Flood Catastrophe. At this grim situation let us put our hands and hearts together to support the people who are affected by the life-changing flood catastrophe.

**FLOOD CATASTROPHE IN KERALA AND KARNATAKA**



**My dear Confreres,** the devastating flood Catastrophe in the whole of Kerala and parts of Karnataka had thrown up violent consequences throughout these two states. Thousands of people had been displaced due to the horrendous rain and landslides. More than 35 dams in Kerala had to be opened and water had to be released which furthered the

flood catastrophe. More than 450 death cases were officially declared in Kerala alone and 17 death cases were reported in Karnataka. In addition, the loss of thousands of houses and valuables amount to Crores of Rupees. Lakhs of people are in relief camps still seeking the mercy of others. The whole world had been



made aware of the seriousness of the matter and danger to the lives of millions of people through the timely intervention of the leaders of the International communities. **Holy Father Pope Francis specially prayed for the victims of the flood in Kerala and appealed to the humanity to extend hearts and hands of compassion and mercy to the stranded people.**

### **Humanity at Its Best**

**My dear Confreres**, what followed the catastrophe of the flood is History. Kerala in particular, has never experienced such calamity for the past one century. **But at this moment of fear, anxiety, sicknesses and constant displacement what stood unaffected is Humanity.** The whole world arose up in arms to support the flood victims. Starting with the Holy Father, the United Nations, European Union and various other Nations in the world came forward with massive supporting measures to be at the side of the flood victims. **Hundreds of prominent people from various walks of life came up to contribute to the well-being of the people.** *The story of Hanan who gave back the gift from the government for the flood victims, the incident of the little girl who sacrificed her annual saving, the witness of the parish priest who accepted to bury the Hindu in the Christian cemetery – all these became signs of various walls being broken down when humanity is at its best.*

**Called to be Fishers of Men:** Jesus called his disciples to be Fishers of Men. In the flood affected Kerala one category of people who went about preaching the Gospel silently but very effectively are the fisher folk. Denying their own advantages and waving away all fears of danger to their lives they took the fight to the extreme flood affected areas where no one dared to go. More touching is the courage and sacrificing attitude of this simple people who even when voluntarily offered financial helps by many, denied it with one underlying statement: **You are my Brother, You are my Sister.** Even when I am writing these lines tears flow down my eyes with a conscientious feeling and awareness that these are the people who seek help from all of us as we enjoy no want in major part of our life span. **We salute the Fisher Folk of Kerala who showed the value of Human concern beyond the peripheral.**

**Called to be Soldiers of Christ:** Yet another class of people who deserve our special gratitude is the **Indian Army and Indian Air Force.** *Marvellous was the sight to see a soldier carrying a handicapped man on his shoulder from the second floor of a flooded house; equally inspiring it was to see the Indian Air Force relentlessly distributing*

*food, water and medicine to the flood affected people and air lifting the ones in danger.*

What a wonderful expression of Human kindness and care beyond limits!

**Government without Politics:** Although we often hear about “dirty politics”, perhaps this is the one time we positively witnessed the government giving its human best to the people in need. To a great extent there was no ego, no governing party or opposition, no dirty linen washed in the public. We appreciate the political leaders, both the center and the state governments, for their constant availability to the needs of the people. Both the chief ministers of Kerala and Karnataka did keep calm in such alarming situations and made use of their governmental machineries to channelize proper support to the people. **Kudos to the Government leaders who depicted governing without politics!**

**Media: Bearers of Good News:** We can never forget the News Agencies and Media for the wonderful and positive circulation of the happenings in Kerala and Karnataka which in turn propelled a lot of awareness in the people around the globe. Round the clock news channels conscientized the people of the various dangers of the flood and its consequences. Giving information even regarding the minute but important matters like how to take care of snake bites, how to handle dead bodies, how to enter into the dilapidated houses, how to take care of the little children in these situations etc. Yes, the media stood with the suffering humanity. **We appreciate the positive approach of the Media.**

**Religion without Barriers:** It was a rare time when the doors of the Churches, Temples and Mosques were opened for all without the consideration of religion. **It was inspiring to see Catholic Priests in T-Shirts carrying sacks of Rice to the flood affected area.** It was a great witness when many of the religious communities became relief camps and Fathers and Sisters became nurses and physicians to the people. It was exemplary to see Priests and Seminarians cleaning the houses of the flood affected people and providing them with clothes and food. **This is true Religion without Fanaticism.**

**Of course,** the stinking, fanatic and regionalist statements by a certain Arnab Goswamy who has forgotten the basic journalistic ethics need to be thrown in the gutters. Certain negative and fanatic comments by some of the religious leaders, including Christian leaders, need to be sidelined. The strategic silence of otherwise vociferous and ruthless

preachers needs to be ignored. **God comes to the aid of the Humanity when Humanity stands united with God.**

### **MSFS Engaged in Flood Relief**

Kerala and Karnataka, which come directly under the South West India Province, had been in a dilapidated Situation during the past one month. **THE REHABILITATION OF THESE DISPLACED PEOPLE WILL TAKE MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR. We have a great task at hand.** At this moment the support extended by the MSFS Fathers have been tremendous:

- a) **SFS Vidyashram Aluva:** In spite of the fact that our whole land in Aluva had been flooded, SFS Vidyashram Aluva, under the leadership of Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil, opened up its doors for more than 450 people as a relief camp. Our Fathers had been at their best in serving these people through serving food and medical assistance.
- b) **Charis Bhavan Athirampuzha:** Our Retreat Center Charis Bhavan has been a place of solace for hundreds of people under the leadership of Fr. Jose Parappillil. The Fathers in the retreat center are very much involved in immediate flood relief program and are charting out strategic long term assistance through rehabilitation of the flood victims.
- c) **SFS Seminary Ettumanoor:** Under the leadership of Fr. George Chirayil, the Rector and the Seminary Staff, all our seminarians engaged in cleaning up the houses of flood-affected people.
- d) **Tejas Vidya Peetha together with PSI:** Our Brothers from Tejas Vidya Peetha hand in hand with PSI, through the able leadership of Frs. Henry Jose and Riju Vazheparambil and a few of our young priests organized a massive rehabilitation program for four full days supporting the flood-affected people in Kerala.
- e) **MSFS Novitiate in Makkiad:** Under the leadership of Fr. Timson Parakottil, the Novice Master, and the staff, 13 of our Novices undertook the mission of cleaning the houses of the flood affected people in Wayanad district.
- f) **St. Joseph Parish, Ulickal:** Under the able leadership of Fr. Shino Puthussery, the parish priest, the parishners of Ulickal parish took a wonderful initiative in distributing clothes and food as well as cleaning the flood affected houses of the people in Kuthiyathodu, Kannur.

Various are other communities and Confreres who directly and indirectly involved in flood relief programs. I shall come to you later with an accurate update of our involvement.

### **My Appeal to the MSFS Congregation**

**In consultation with the General Administration and the Provincial Administration of South West India Province** I have taken upon certain immediate measures to alleviate the struggles of the suffering people. **Although the flood has come down, the relief work and rehabilitation have just begun and it demands Crores of Rupees.** It is our responsibility as MSFS to show the MSFSness through compassion, charity and availability. Therefore, South West India Province has taken the following immediate measures to alleviate the suffering of the people.

- **All our Communities** fast for a day and contribute the outcome of our sacrifice for the suffering people
- **All our Educational Institutions** will compulsorily take a collection from the children to support the flood-affected people.
- **All the Parishes** where MSFS Fathers are working will take a special collection and contribute also new clothes and other stationary items for the flood victims
- **All the Fathers who are working abroad, especially Germany, Austria, Australia, England and America please extend your helping hand by seeking help from the people you serve.**

I REQUEST ALL THE PROVINCES OF THE MSFS CONGREGATION TO JOIN HANDS WITH US IN ALLEVIATING THE SUFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

**If you wish, please send your Contributions to the following Accounts:**

#### Contributions from Foreign Countries:

**Kerala Fransalian Educational Society**

**Catholic Syrian Bank**

**Ettumanoor Branch**

**IFSC Code: CSBK 0000154**

**A/c No. 015401984006190001**

**Swift Code: CSYB IN 55**

### Contribution from India

**The Karnataka Fransalian Society**

**Account Number: 0279053000012345**

**Name of the Bank: South Indian Bank Limited**

**Branch: Malleswaram Branch, Bangalore**

**IFS Code: SIBL0000279**

**My dear Confreres**, I assure you that every contribution that you do will be totally used for the alleviation of the sufferings of thousands of people. **We will be organizing our relief program through CHARIS BHAVAN and SFS VIDYASHRAM.** I shall surely be giving you a detailed account of the way we spent the whole amount of flood relief.

### **RESULTS OF THE ELECTION FOR THE DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2019**

My dear Confreres, I am happy to announce the results of the election for the Delegates to the General Chapter 2019.

- Total Number of Ballots Returned: 166
- Total Number of Valid Votes: 166

#### **Elected Delegates and Votes:**

- Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil: 85
- Fr. Thomas Cherukat: 74
- Fr. Binu Edathumparambil: 42

#### **Substitutes:**

- Fr. R. Santhosh Kumar: 41
- Fr. Jose Parappillil: 23
- Fr. Joy Vazhappilly: 23

I thank all the Confreres who voted and thus used their rights in the most befitting manner by electing Confreres to the General Chapter who can worthily represent our province.

## **BLESSING OF THE NEW COMMUNITY HOUSE AND INAUGURATION OF THE SOCIAL WORK CENTRE IN KAREHALLI, BANGALORE**



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2018 we inaugurated the new MSFS Community at Karehalli. Fr. Benny Jacob Marangolil along with Bro. Emmanuel Balu are staying in the new house. Although the approximately 4 acres of land can be used for various purposes we have initiated a social work program under the PSI, namely,

SFS TAILORING & FASHION DESIGNING CENTRE.

It is a new initiative in the field of Women empowerment and social awakening in the form of a Tailoring and Fashion designing Centre which has been opened at our newly



obtained property at Karehalli on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018. At present there are seventeen machines and thirty four women in two batches undergoing the training. The project in the longer run, envisions upgrading it into a garment unit to provide school

uniforms which in turn would provide employment opportunity for at least a minimum of one hundred women making them self-reliant and mutually supportive.

## **LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR A NEW CHURCH IN CHINTAMANI**



On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2018, the Provincial, Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, laid the foundation Stone for a new Church in Chintamani in the presence of Fr. Cyriac Ummikuzhy, the Parish Priest, MSFS Confreres, Reverend Sisters and the

Parishners. "St. Joseph the Worker" Church in Chintamani is entrusted with the MSFS

Congregation 'Ad perpetuum' by the Archdiocese of Bangalore. After 25 years of our ministry in this parish it is our duty and responsibility to construct a new church as the present church is in a very dilapidated situation. We trust in the providence of God as we undertake this noble task of constructing the Church that we would find necessary fund to complete this undertaking.

## **BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF THE NEW WING OF SFS SCHOOL MALUR**



It was a jubilant occasion for the whole of SFS School Malur as it stood elegantly with a complete school building giving facilities for the students for a holistic education. The Silver Jubilee Memorial Wing of the

School was inaugurated on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 by the Provincial, Rev. Fr. Benny Kottanal. The whole ceremony was attended by a number of MSFS Confreres, Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod and Fr. Jesus Maria and his team from Spain who are on a mission support extension program in India. The presence of the school children numbering to 2000 added colour to the jubilant occasion. The MSFS Community of Malur thanked the Provincial and his administration for providing all the facilities for an efficient functioning of the School. The provincial administration appreciates and places on record the relentless works of our Fathers to see the completion of the work.

## **BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF MSFS COMMUNITY AND FORMATION PROGRAM IN BARILI, CEBU, PHILIPPINES**



South West India Province had a historic moment on 22nd August 2018 when the Philippines Delegation inaugurated and blessed its first community in the Regions of

Visayas in the Province of Cebu in the Municipality of Barili. The Delegation is in the process of constructing the minor seminary in this place and to facilitate the construction, the Delegation has purchased a house near to the location of the land for the Seminary. This house was blessed and the Orientation program for this year was inaugurated in the new house with three aspirants we have in the Delegation this year. Fr. Praful Tigga is the Rector and Superior of the Community and Fr. Nathaniel Masendo is the Procurator and formator. We have three candidates as aspirants from Mindano Regions – Brothers Ornette, Rey Ian and Janel. We had the joy of the presence of the Delegation Administration on this occasion and also Fr. Jinu Pathiyakam, the former Delegation Superior, who initiated the process of starting the Seminary in Barili, Cebu. This is our first community outside the Luzon Regions and in the Archdiocese of Cebu, in the Philippines.

## **RESCHEDULED FORUM MEETINGS**

My dear Confreres, we had to postpone three of the forum meetings due to the flood catastrophe in Kerala and Karnataka. Hereby I am announcing the rescheduled dates of the Forum Meetings. Participation in these meetings are not voluntary, but compulsory in nature. I request all of you to take note of the dates and participate in these meetings without fail.

- **October 9** – Mission Forum Meeting (in Charis Bhavan /SFS Seminary Ettumanoor) for those in Kerala
- **October 12** – Education Forum Meeting in Vinayalaya
- **December 5**– Social & Innovative Forum Meeting in Vinayalaya
- **December 6** – Mission Forum Meeting in Vinayalaya for those in Karnataka

## **BON VOYAGE**

**Fr. Pangi Raj** will be leaving for pastoral ministry in the USA on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. He will be joining the diocese of Kalamazoo. As he undertakes this new ministry for South West India Province in the USA, I wish him God's abundant blessings, good health of mind and body to fulfil his responsibility in the most effective manner. Bon Voyage dear Fr. Pangi Raj.

## OBITUARY

- **Mr. Mathew Augustine**, aged 55, brother in law of Fr. Binoy Kuzhuppil, died on August 17, 2018.
- **Mr. Xavier Arackal**, aged 73, father of Fr. Manoj Arackal, died on August 17, 2018.
- **Mrs. Theresiamma Ouseph**, aged 66, mother of Fr. Antony Valiaparampil, died on August 20, 2018.
- **Mrs. Thelma Dominic Valumannel**, aged 83, paternal aunt of Fr. Shibu Thundathil, died on August 21, 2018.
- **Sr. Annamma**, aged 74, maternal aunt of Fr. Majish Vallisserikettil, died on August 22, 2018.

**We assure you, dear Confreres, the remembrance of your dear ones in our Holy Mass and Prayers.**

## MY SCHEDULE

My dear Confreres, please do take note of my program schedule. Different from the previous circular, each new circular would bring in additional changes in my programs as per the need. Please do organize the visitation and other common meetings/programs according to the latest communication.

### August 2018

August 28	Stewardship Forum Meeting
August 29	Meeting of the Superior General with the Provincial and the Curia
August 30	Visitation to MSFS Community and school at Anthoninagara

### September 2018

September 1	Recollection - IIS
September 3-5	Meeting with the communities of Charis Bhavan and SFS Vidyashram regarding the Flood-relief initiatives
September 7	Nativity of Our Lady - Festal Kannada Mass at SFS Church, Hebbagodi
September 9	Institute's Day at IIS
Sept. 10-14	PIF-PEA-GC Meeting in Hyderabad
September 15	Inauguration and Blessing of the New Community House and Social Work Centre in Shiralakoppa, Shimoga
Sept. 15-16	Visitation to the MSFS Community Savanur, *Meeting with the 10 <sup>th</sup> Std. Students
Sept. 16-17	Visitation to the MSFS Community Mundargi, *Meeting with the 10 <sup>th</sup> Std. Students

Sept. 17-18	Visitation to the MSFS Community Kuknoor, *Meeting with the 10 <sup>th</sup> Std. Students
Sept. 18-19	Visitation to the MSFS Community Koppal, *Meeting with the 10 <sup>th</sup> Std. Students of SFS Schools
September 20	Council Meeting
September 21	Animation Program for the Formators of the SMMI Congregation at Prerana, Bangalore
Sept. 22-28	Retreat for the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod (SCC) at Yercaud
September 30	Founder's Day – with the Novices in MSFS Novitiate Makkiad

### **October 2018**

October 1-4	Visitation to the MSFS Novitiate Makkiad, Classes for the Novices
October 5-6	Visitation to MSFS Community, Batheri
October 6-7	Visitation to Vinayakumar Ashram, Sunday Mass in T.K. Colony Parish
October 9	Mission Forum Meeting (for those in Kerala)in Charis Bhavan/SFS Seminary Ettumanoor
October 12	Education Forum Meeting
October 13	Meeting with the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Philosophers in Suvidya College
October 14	Visitation to PSI, Kengeri
October 15-19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Retreat at IIS
October 18	Annual Charismatic Convention at Charis Bhavan: Holy Mass and Talk
October 20	Council Meeting
October 21-22	Visitation to Sedam Mission, visiting Fr. D. Robert
October 24	MSFS Foundation Day and Institute's Day at Suvidya College, Bangalore
Oct.26-Nov. 15	Visitation to Germany, Austria and Confreres who are studying in different Universities in Europe

### **November 2018**

Oct. 26–Nov.15	Visitation to Germany, Austria and Confreres who are studying in different Universities in Europe
November 16-17	Recollection – IIS
November 18-19	Visitation to St. Joseph's Parish and SFS Boys' Home, Ulickal
November 19-20	Visitation to MSFS Community & SFS School Mattannur
November 20	Visiting Fr. Simil in Panathur, Visitation to Kannadiparamba Parish
November 20-21	Visitation to MSFS Community & SFS School Kannur, Meeting the 10 <sup>th</sup> Standard Students
November 23	Council Meeting
November 27-29	On-going Formation for all those ordained before 1990
November 30	Personal Meeting with the Confreres of Vinayalaya Community

## December 2018

December 2	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Hebbagodi
December 3-4	Regents' Meeting – Mid-Year Evaluation
December 5	Social & Innovative Forum Meeting
December 6	Mission Forum Meeting (for those in Karnataka)
December 7-8	Recollection – IIS
December 9	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Visitation to IIS –Holy Mass and Meeting with the Staff and Students and the Associates of Fransalians
December 10	Blessing and Inauguration of the New wing of the ICSE School Koppal; Blessing of the house constructed for the Domestic Staff; School Annual Day – ICSE & State Syllabus Schools Koppal
December 11-12	PIF Meeting, Governing Body Meeting and Rev. Fr. Gabriel Memorial Lectures at Suvidya College
December 13-23	Visitation to Chad-Cameroon Delegation
December 25	Christmas
December 27	Ordination of <b>Dn. Staney Rodrigues</b> , Infant Jesus Church, Prabhat Nagar, Honavar, Karnataka
December 28	Council Meeting

## January 2019

January 1	New Year
January 2	Ordinations of <b>Deacons Tony Munduchalil</b> and <b>Joshay Thumpechirayil</b> , St. Mary's Basilica, Champakulam, Kerala
January 3	Ordination of <b>Dn. Zacharias Peter Cherackal</b> , St. Mary's Basilica, Ernakulam, Kerala
January 5	Ordination of <b>Dn. Antony Selvam</b> , Lourdu Matha Church, Elanthaikulam, Singamparai, Tamil Nadu
January 9	Ordination of <b>Dn. Petrus Kerketta</b> , St. Joseph's Church, Kanchanagar, Balarampur Dt., Chattisgarh
January 11	Ordination of <b>Dn. Rakesh Ekka</b> , St. Joseph's Church, Chiringa, Ambikapur Dt., Chattisgarh
January 18	Council Meeting
January 19	School Annual Day, SFS School Mundargi
January 24	Feast of SFS at Vinayalaya, Installation of the Provincial

### THOUGHT FROM OUR FOUNDER

**"TRUE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST SHOULD PROCLAIM WITH THE HEART AND THE MOUTH."** – Fr. Peter Mermier, Servant of God

**Fraternally,**



**Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS**

**Provincial**